

## Part of Your Primary Care Team

**Audiologists** are hearing health professionals, with a minimum master's degree, who identify, diagnose and manage individuals with peripheral or central hearing loss, tinnitus and/or other sound tolerance concerns, vestibular and balance disorders and other communication disorders across the lifespan. Audiologists help people to improve their ability to communicate and interact in all situations.

## How can audiologists support primary care as an integrated team member?

Audiologists offer faster access to specialized and comprehensive care to preserve and (re)habilitate auditory and vestibular functioning across the lifespan. They can also facilitate team training focused on enhancing communication accessibility to reduce patient/family barriers to participation in care access and decision making.



### Did you know?

**Audiologists can identify and manage difficulties and/or concerns related to:**

- hearing loss
- vestibular function and balance
- tinnitus, hyperacusis and misophonia
- aural (re)habilitation (*hearing aids, cochlear implants, speech-reading classes*)
- cerumen management
- ototoxic monitoring
- hearing conservation program
- educational services (*room acoustics/signal-to-noise ratio, parent teacher education*)

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### Pediatric Case

**A parent reports that their 18-month old child is not able to communicate their needs and as a result has frequent violent outbursts. The parent notes that the child speaks very loudly and insists that the television is loud. As an integrated team member, the audiologist could:**

- perform a hearing screen (*including middle-ear assessment/DPOAE*) for triage purposes;
- perform cerumen management;
- act as a liaison to the child's daycare or school for audiology needs;
- provide tools to the family, appropriate community services, temporary amplifiers as needed;
- provide workshops open to all parents and staff on strategies to promote hearing health.



### Adult Case

**A 50-year-old patient schedules and attends an appointment and describes experiencing incessant roaring in their ears over the past 2 weeks. This roaring sound is impairing their sleep and overall daily functioning. As an integrated team member, an audiologist could:**

- perform a hearing screen to help in the triage process for next steps;
- perform cerumen management;
- assess the severity of the tinnitus through outcome measures;
- support the patient by providing accessible tinnitus education and support;
- connect patient with appropriate community services and professionals;
- provide workshops open to all patients and staff about tinnitus.